

1914

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
Urban District of Chingford.



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ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chingford Urban
District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

The District.

The Urban District of Chingford may be divided into a Northern portion, lying on a plateau from 60 to 200 feet above sea level, and a Southern portion, lying in a valley which forms part of the Lea Valley. To the West of Chingford, in this valley, the Metropolitan Water Board's two reservoirs occupy a large area. A considerable slope of the land from the North to the South and West allows of free drainage of water.

The soil is stiff clay.

The inhabitants consist of Professional and business men, engaged locally and in London and its suburbs, together with a large working class population. There is comparatively little overcrowding amongst the latter.

Area and Population.

Area of District	...	...	...	...	...	acres	2807
Population taken mid-year census, 1911	...	...	...	...	...		8186
„ estimated „	1914	...	...	...	...		9720
Estimated increase of population since 1913	...	...	...	...	...		455
Number of houses occupied mid-year 1913	...	...	...	...	...		1853
„ „ „ „	1914	...	...	...	...		1944

Births.

Males, 94.	Females, 98.	Total	...	...	192
Rate per thousand	...	...	...	...	19'7
Average rate previous 5 years...	...	...	...	...	20'9

Deaths.

Total for the whole district, including Walthamstow Isolation Hospital, with deaths of residents outside area	...	...	...	...	125
Deaths of non-residents in that hospital	...	...	...	...	27
Nett deaths of residents	...	...	...	...	98
Death-rate of whole number	...	...	...	...	12'8
„ of the 98 residents	...	...	...	...	10

Seasonal Mortality.

			Residents.	Non-Residents.
During First Quarter	...	...	30	5
„ Second „	...	...	23	4
„ Third „	...	...	21	11
„ Fourth „	...	...	24	7
			<hr/> 98	<hr/> 27

Mortality at different Ages.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	18	1
1 to 5 years	...	...	...	2	2
5 to 15 years	...	..	...	3	1
15 to 25 years	...	...	...	2	2
25 to 65 years	...	...	...	24	10
65 years and upwards	25	8
				<hr/> 74	<hr/> 24

Infantile Mortality.

Rate per thousand births	98'9
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Zymotic Sickness.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES	NOTIFICATIONS.	SEASONAL INCIDENCE.				SENT TO HOSPITAL.	DEATHS
		Quar. I	2	3	4		
Diphtheria ...	40	11	13	6	10	18	2
Scarlet Fever ...	28	4	1	6	17	7	0
Erysipelas ...	7	0	1	2	4	0	0
*Measles ...	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
*Chicken Pox ...	52	0	0	0	52	0	0
Pul. Tuberculosis	15	4	5	4	2	4 to Sanatoria	2
Non „	7	3	3	1	0	4 Hospital	0
Total ...	151	22	23	19	87	37	4

* Measles and Chicken Pox made compulsorily notifiable, Oct., 1914.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply. A hard, pure water is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board from wells sunk in the Lea Valley.

Drainage and Sewerage. The Drainage and Sewerage are satisfactory. About twenty of the older houses drain into cesspools; which are periodically emptied: the remainder are connected with the main sewer.

Closet Accomodation. With the exception of sixteen, all closets have proper flushing cisterns.

Scavenging. A weekly collection of house refuse is made. Moveable ash-bins with proper coverings are provided, and contents are destroyed by burning.

Sanitary Inspection of District. From the appended report of the Sanitary Inspector, it will be seen there were 37 complaints.

received, 513 nuisances detected, 529 nuisances abated, and 13 formal notices served. Two summonses were taken out, and two convictions obtained.

There are no lodging-houses in the district, and the two existing offensive trades are situated on the outskirts of the district.

Schools. The Public Elementary Schools in North and South Chingford are well ventilated and drained, and have water supplies laid on.

The School Medical Officer attends twice weekly to examine children, referred to her by the Teachers.

Milk Supply. The milk supply is provided mainly by local farms, and is of good quality. Eight samples of milk were taken and found genuine.

Dairies and Milkshops, 15 in number, have been inspected frequently and found satisfactory.

Cowsheds, 11 in number, have been periodically visited and found clean and well ventilated.

Other Foods. Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses have been frequently inspected with satisfactory results.

Two seizures of unsound meat were made during the year. No carcasses were condemned for Tuberculosis.

Housing. Under the Housing and Town Planning Act there were 180 cottages inspected under section 17. Four cottages were closed: none were demolished.

On the Northern portion of Chingford there were built during the year 20 houses, and on the Southern portion, 7 houses.

The accommodation is adequate for the needs of the district.

Sanitary Administration of the District.

The Sanitary work of the district is done by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself.

Hospital Accommodation. The Waltham Joint Hospital Board at their hospital at Waltham Abbey admit patients from this district suffering from infectious diseases. During the year 18 cases of Diphtheria and 7 of Scarlet Fever were treated there. Bacteriological examinations of swabs, sputum, &c., were made at the County Laboratory at the expense, in necessitous cases, of the Council.

Prevalence of and Control over Acute Infectious Diseases.

During the year there were notified 28 cases of Scarlet Fever, of which 6 occurred in North Chingford, and 22 in South Chingford: 40 cases of Diphtheria, of which 21 occurred in North Chingford, and 19 in South Chingford; 7 cases of Erysipelas, of which 5 occurred in North Chingford, and 2 in South Chingford, and, in addition, since October, when Measles and Chicken Pox were added to the list of infectious diseases compulsorily notifiable, 2 cases of Measles and 52 cases of Chicken Pox.

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were more prevalent than in 1913, and in both diseases the great majority of cases, 22 and 25 respectively, occurred between the ages of 5 and 15 years, this age incidence pointing to personal contact at school. Of the cases of Scarlet Fever, 12 were contracted at a Home for Girls in South Chingford.

Diphtheria was prevalent during the first four and the last two months of the year, the increased number of cases compared with 1912 (29), and 1913 (33), together with its more general distribution

over the district, giving rise to some anxiety. The majority of cases were of very mild type, a factor which not infrequently favoured its spread to several members of the same family.

A number of cases of this kind occurred in the South Chingford Schools during April.

The more constant supervision by the School Medical Officer has been of great benefit to the children, and as time goes on, will doubtless result in considerable improvement, both physically and mentally.

My thanks are due to the Heads of the schools for the prompt notifications of absentees.

Antitoxin was supplied gratuitously by the Council for use in necessitous cases, and the provision was freely taken advantage of by the local Medical Practitioners.

Prevalence and control over Tuberculosis.

Fifteen cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, of which 7 occurred in North Chingford, and 8 in South Chingford. Of these 2 died, and of the remainder 4 were admitted into Sanatoria, and 4 into Hospitals. Seven cases of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, of which 6 occurred in North Chingford and 1 in South Chingford. 4 cases were sent to Hospitals.

Domiciliary visits were made on receipt of notification, and instructions given as to mode of life, &c. On removal or death of the patient disinfection of the room or rooms was carried out.

Investigation of other Diseases.

The general health of District has not been threatened by any particular disease.

The Vaccination of Infants, I am sorry to report, is more and more neglected.

Mosquito Nuisance. The Summer months being particularly dry ones, this nuisance was not much in evidence. Printed instructions were issued to each housholder detailing the necessary treatment for the extermination of the pest. Some disused ponds were filled in, and I hope, as time progresses, all unnecessary collections of stagnant water will be so treated.

Means for preventing Mortality in Child-birth and in Infancy.

The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, is not locally adopted, the Sanitary Authority considering it unnecessary. I can but repeat the view I expressed in last year's report that if the various interested Authorities would combine to support a properly qualified nurse, one who would beget the confidence of the working class mother, the local adoption of the Act would be of great service.

Vital Statistics of the District.

The birth-rate of 1907 is slightly lower than the average of the preceding 5 years (20·9).

The Infantile Mortality rate of 98·9 per thousand births is higher than that of last year (83), and compares unfavourably with the average for the last 5 years (67), and is due to the unduly large number of infants (7) dying during the first week of life from ante-natal and natal causes.

The death-rate of 10 per 1000 is slightly higher than that of last year (9·2), the average for the preceding quinquennial period being 8·4.

Twenty-one deaths occurred at the age of 70 years and over, the average of these 21 deaths being 78 years.

I am much indebted to Mr. BOWEN, Clerk, Mr. GRIFFIN, Surveyor, and Mr. WILKINS, Sanitary Inspector, for their valuable help,

T. STANBURY BROOK,
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.),

March 22nd, 1915.

Medical Officer of Health.

— TABLE 1. —

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914, and previous years in the Chingford Urban District.

Year.	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett deaths belonging to the district.			
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of non- residents registered in the district.	of resi- dents not registered in the district.	Under 1 Year of Age,		At all Ages,	
								Number,	Rate per 1000 nett Births,	number,	Rate,
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1909	7710	154	22.5	71	10.58	16	9	6	40	64	8.3
1910	8310	176	20.1	57	6.86	15	10	11	62.5	57	6.86
1911	8520	176	20.0	98	11.5	30	15	10	57	73	8.33
1912	8680	185	21.3	71	8.1	16	27	16	86.5	82	9.4
1913	9265	193	20.8	79	8.5	16	23	17	88	86	9.2
1914	9720	192	19.7	101	10.4	27	24	19	9.9	98	10

Area of District in acres (land and inland
water) 2807.

Total population at all ages 8186, at Census, 1911.

— TABLE 2. —

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1914, in the Chingford Urban District.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified						Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages	1 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 and upwards
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	40	8	25	2	5	...	...
Erysipelas	7	...	...	...	4	2	1
Scarlet Fever	28	3	22	3	...	...	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15	...	1	2	11	1	4 Hospital 4 Sanatoria
Other forms of Tuberculosis	7	1	4	...	2	...	4 Hospital
Totals	97	12	52	7	22	3	1

Isolation Hospital (*Name and situation*)—Waltham Joint Isolation Hospital,

— TABLE 3. —

Causes of, and Ages at, during year 1914, in the Chingford Urban District.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 and upwards.	
All Causes certified & uncertified	98	19	2	2	4	4	18	16	33	27
Measles	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	16
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	7
Tuberculosis Meningitis ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	...
Meningitis	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	4	...
Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	5	1	1	...	...	...	2	..	1	...
Other diseases of respiratory organs	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
Nephritis & Bright's Disease ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	...
Congenital Defects	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, exclud. Suicide...	3	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases ...	38	3	...	...	...	2	5	7	21	...
Totals	98	19	2	2	4	4	18	16	33	27

— TABLE 4. —
INFANTILE MORTALITY during the Year 1914, in the Chingford Urban District.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	3-4 weeks	4 wks. & under 3 months	3 mths & under 6 months	6 mths & under 9 months	9 mths & under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Whooping-Cough ...	...	...	1	1	...	1	3
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Enteritis ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Premature Births ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	5
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	2	1	2	...	...	...	5
Other Causes ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals ...	7	1	6	2	2	1	19

CHINGFORD URBAN DISTRICT.
 Births in the year—legitimate **185**.
 " " illegitimate **7**.

Deaths in the year—legitimate infants **19**.
 " " illegitimate **0**.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Urban Sanitary District of Chingford, during the year ending December 31st, 1914.

	Total No. for year.	Notes.
Complaints received	37	
Nuisances detected without com- plaint	513	
Nuisances abated	529	
Nuisances remaining unabated ...	21	
Formal notices served	13	
Summonses taken out	2	
Convictions obtained	2	
Slaughter-houses inspected ...	3	
Frequency of Inspection ...	Frequent	
Bakehouses inspected	3	
Frequency of Inspection ...	Frequent	
Dairies and Milk Shops inspected	15	
Frequency of Inspection ...	Frequent	
Cowsheds inspected	11	
Frequency of Inspection ...	Frequent	
No. of samples of milk taken for examination for cleanliness, tubercle bacilli, etc.	8	
Filthy houses, & parts of, cleansed, sec. 91 Public Health Act, 1875	52	
Houses disinfected	58	
Overcrowding abated	4	
Privies, No. in District	2	
Pail Closets, No. in District ...	13	
Water Closets, No. in District without flushing cistern ...	16	
Water Closets, with flushing cis- terns	all others	
W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water	54	
Water cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered	50	
Animals improperly kept removed	10	
Samples of water taken for Analysis	1	
Compensation paid for destruc- tion of infected bedding ...	£1	
Seizures of unsound Food ...	2	

(Signed) W. R. WILKINS,
A. R. San. I. and Med. Cert.

